

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO FLASH

INFO USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

S E C R E T STATE 185396

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: AUTUMN FORGE EXERCISE SERIES

REF: A) USNATO 4066; B) STATE 179558; C) USNATO 407)

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1. WE ARE ALSO PLEASED THAT ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES AT JULY 31 DPC GENERALLY SUPPORTED THE AUTUMN FORGE CONCEPT AND AN ACTIVE RELATED PUBLIC RELATIONS POLICY, AND WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NEW EXERCISE

CONCEPT WHICH SHOULD BE TESTED FOR THE VARIOUS REASONS NOTED. THE APPARENT SUPPORT FOR AN ACTIVE PUBLIC INFORMATION POLICY EVIDENT AMONG ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES AND MILITARY COMMANDERS IMPLIES A STRONG SENSE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE VALUE OF AUTUMN FORGE FOR NATO FORCE TRAINING AND FOR PROJECTING IMAGE OF ALLIANCE COHESION AND READINESS. IT FURTHER IMPLIES THAT THERE ARE NEITHER POLITICAL NOR SECURITY REASONS FOR CLASSIFYING AUTUMN FORGE. THEREFORE IT APPEARS THAT THE ALLIANCE HAS NOTHING TO LOSE BY AN ACTIVE POLICY OF OPENNESS WITH REGARD TO THIS EXERCISE SERIES AND HAS EVERYTHING TO GAIN BY PUBLICIZING THE NEW CONCEPT FOR THE REASONS ENUMERATED IN PREVIOUS MESSAGES.

2. THUS, IT SEEMS SOMEWHAT PARADOXICAL -- AS SUGGESTED BY

DEPUTY SYG PANSA -- TO TAKE A NARROW, SOMEWHAT LEGALISTIC LINE IN INTERPRETING CBM APPLICABILITY, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME GIVING AUTUMN FORGE WIDE PUBLICITY. WE RECOGNIZE THAT A CASE CAN BE MADE FOR NOT NOTIFYING THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES UNDER THE CBM PROVISION FOR ADVANCE NOTIFICATION. IT IS A MOOT POINT. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO RISK BEING PUT ON THE DEFENSIVE ON THIS BY THE WAY WE INTERPRET THE CSCE DOCUMENT. AS NOTED IN REF B, WE BELIEVE IT PRUDENT TO AVOID POSSIBLE CHARGES OF BAD FAITH AGAINST ALLIES BY WARSAW PACT OR NEUTRALS, IF ALLIES CHOOSE NOT TO PREANNOUNCE AUTUMN FORGE. IT IS, RATHER, THE SOVIET UNION AND THE WARSAW PACT COUNTRIES WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE DEFENSIVE AND LEGALISTIC IN INTERPRETING THE CBM PROVISIONS OF CSCE. SINCE WE HAVE APPARENTLY NOTHING TO LOSE IN PUBLICIZING AUTUMN FORGE, WE BELIEVE IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO SET HIGH STANDARDS EARLY-ON AFTER HELSINKI IN INTERPRETING CSCE, AGAINST WHICH WE CAN SUBSEQUENTLY MEASURE EASTERN COMPLIANCE.

3. YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT INITIAL GENERAL CSCE  
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NOTIFICATION OF AUTUMN FORGE SERIES,  
DEVELOPING THE FOREGOING ARGUMENTATION WITH THE ALLIES.  
WE WOULD SEE NOTIFICATION OF AUTUMN FORGE AS SEPARATE  
AND DIFFERENT FROM THE MORE COMPLETE NOTIFICATION OF  
INDIVIDUAL MANEUVERS UNDER CSCE PROCEDURES.

4. WE NOTE POINT MADE BY UK REP LOGAN IN REF A ABOUT  
RISKS OF POSSIBLE CRITICISM BY OTHERS OF A "BLANKET"  
ANNOUNCEMENT OF AUTUMN FORGE AS A WAY OF AVOIDING MORE  
SPECIFIC NOTIFICATIONS PRESCRIBED BY CSCE. WE DO NOT  
SEE WHY THIS SHOULD BE PROBLEM IF AUTUMN FORGE ANNOUNCE-  
MENT ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT INDIVIDUAL MANEUVERS IN THE  
SERIES WOULD BE COVERED IN INDIVIDUAL DIPLOMATIC

ANNOUNCEMENTS IN KEEPING WITH CSCE PROVISIONS, AND IF OVERALL AUTUMN FORGE ANNOUNCEMENT POSSIBLY WENT FURTHER AND STATED THAT THE FIRST TWO DETAILED ANNOUNCEMENTS, FOR GROSSE ROCHADE AND REFORGER, WOULD BE MADE SUBSEQUENTLY, AND NO LESS THAN 21 DAYS BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THESE FIELD MANEUVERS. WITH REGARD TO SECOND POINT MADE BY UK REP ABOUT POSSIBLY "UNSATISFACTORY PATTERN" OF TWO TIERS OF ANNOUNCEMENT -- ONE GENERAL(AUTUMN FORGE), THE OTHER CONTAINING FULL REQUIRED INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL MANEUVERS -- WE DO NOT PERCEIVE DISADVANTAGES IF WARSAW PACT FOLLOWED SAME PROCEDURE WHERE WARRANTED BY A CENTRAL PATTERN OF INDIVIDUAL MANEUVERS. IN ANY CASE, WE BELIEVE THESE ISSUES MIGHT COME INTO CLEARER FOCUS WHEN ALLIES HAVE BENEFIT OF SACEUR'S DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT AND VIEWS OF NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE.

5. WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO BELGIAN REP'S SUGGESTION ON PRE-ANNOUNCING REFORGER AND GROSSE ROCHADE AS BEING IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AUTUMN FORGE SERIES, YOU SHOULD RESERVE U.S. VIEWS ON THE COMPROMISE UNTIL AFTER WE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW INSTRUCTED ALLIED VIEWS THAT WILL EMERGE AT FORTHCOMING POLAD AND DPC/NAC MEETINGS.

6. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON REFOTER 75 REQUESTED IN REF C WILL BE SUPPLIED UPON RECEIPT FROM USCINCEUR. KISSINGER

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

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